



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: **Second Tuesday** of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night except Saturday @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:00 PM on 146.64.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the **third Tuesday** of each month.
- On the **fourth Tuesday** of every month, in-person meeting at Ridge Road Baptist Church where there will be project tables, demos, snacks, and socializing.



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Interested in helping? Visit
<https://www.rars.org/public-service.php>

frequently for our ham public service schedule.

RARS General Meeting

Date: March 11, 2025

Topics: : RARSfest

by Nancy Torborg, KB2TNR.

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church

Time: In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 7:30 PM, [More info at RARS.org](https://www.rars.org)

RARS In Person Gathering

Date: March 25, 2025

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church

Time: 7:00 PM

In-person Gathering at Ridge Road Baptist Church where there will be project tables, demos, snacks, and socializing.

RARS Officers

PRESIDENT

Fin Gold
NC4FG
nc4fgfin@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Chuck Till
K4RGN
k4rgn@outlook.com

SECRETARY

Julie Royster
KT4JR
919-782-1624
KT4JR@arrl.net

TREASURER

Greg Seamster
KE4PAX
919.859.0029
KE4PAX@arrl.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Regular dues for licensed amateurs are \$18 per year. (From July 1 through June 30.) Additional licensed immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed full-time students and licensed seniors 60 and over are \$12 per year. Unlicensed individuals may become associate members for \$9 per year. Applications for membership are available from the treasurer or on the RARS web site.

<https://www.rars.org>

Exciter

The Exciter is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The Exciter welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's Exciter is the Saturday that is ten days before the general meeting. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Tom Lewis, N4TL, editor (editor@rars.org)

Exciter President's Message for March 2025

RARS objective accomplished!

One of the main objectives of our club is to educate. It has been inspiring to recently see that objective achieved!



Our Education Director, Denny KO4IBL, led a Technician license class at the beginning of February. It was well attended by excellent students all the way through.

Four of those students tested at the exam session led by Richard KR4LH before the February Gathering. They all passed!

In doing so, we have four new RARS members!

It's amazing to see a process like that work. It took lots of people, planning, and preparation to make it happen. Congrats to the teams that accomplished it.

NC QSO Party

The North Carolina QSO Party Contest went great! There were many participants both inside and outside North Carolina.

The RARS Club Station enjoyed a fun day of radio as we supported the event with our bonus station. With two SSB stations (using the club radios), we made 605 contacts to 44 states and 66 of 100 NC counties. Three visitors made their first calls ever! All that made it a successful party!

We Have Great Volunteers!

As we prepare for RARSfest on April 5th, we'll see a large team of volunteers come together to put on the largest hamfest around. Remember to get your ticket and volunteer on the [RARS web site](https://www.rars.org).

Thank you to all our volunteers! Please join us at the next club meeting on March 11th to congratulate our Recognition Award recipients who went above and beyond. The meeting details are also on the web site.

73,
Fin Gold, NC4FG
President
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

2025 RARSfest

RARSfest, The Raleigh Hamfest, is a little over 1 month away! The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society is proud to sponsor the largest hamfest east of the Mississippi.

We have **new** dealers joining us: Diamond Antenna, and M&L Radio Technology. This year, Chatt Radio, G&G Electronics, The Ham Badgers, Ham Radio Outlet, Phase Dock Inc., Personal Stitches, Tarheel Designs, and The Wireman are returning!

If you're all about POTA and SOTA operations, check out returning Summit Outdoors Gear, **new** vendor Deal City, and **new** dealers Reliance Antenna and Spooltenna, by RARS' own KO4HUI!

We have exciting Emergency Comms vehicles returning!

You can't learn everything about ham radio from YouTube. A great slate of presenters are bringing their expertise and enthusiasm to our Forums. Check out the line-up and schedule here.

You can *NEVER* have too many radios, despite what your significant other tell you... We have amazing Door Prizes that would love to make *your* house their home.

RARSfest 2025 Door Prizes

Grand Prize Yaesu FTDX10 HF Radio



- The drawing for the Grand Prize will take place at 2:00 PM from among all eligible admission tickets **purchased** for RARSfest 2025, including "Early Birds"
- The winner of the Grand Prize will **not** be eligible for any Sponsored Prize drawings that take place after the Grand Prize drawing
- Volunteers will have to have **purchased** an admission ticket to be eligible for the Grand Prize
- You need not be present to win*

First Prize Yaesu FTM-500DR FM/C4FM Dual Band Mobile



- The drawing for the First Prize will take place at 1:00 PM from among all eligible admission tickets **purchased** for RARSfest 2025, including "Early Birds"
- The winner of the First Prize will **not** be eligible for the Grand Prize drawing or for any Sponsored Prize drawings that take place after the First Prize drawing
- Volunteers will have to have **purchased** an admission ticket to be eligible for the First Prize
- You need not be present to win*

"Early Bird" Prize ICOM IC-2730 Dual Band Mobile



- The drawing for the "Early Bird" Prize will take place at 10:00 AM from among all eligible admission tickets **purchased** for RARSfest 2025 **during the "Early Bird" period** from January 30 through March 29, 2025
- Volunteers will have to have **purchased a ticket during the "Early Bird" period** to be eligible
- All tickets purchased during the "Early Bird" period, including the winning ticket, will be placed in the main barrel for subsequent drawings
- You need not be present to win*

2025 RARSfest, continued

For \$10 in advance (\$12 at the door), you will get a solid day of all things Amateur Radio right here in Raleigh. We also still have Flea Market tables available, and it's all indoors, and the parking is *FREE*.

RARSfest is completely volunteer-driven! Without our volunteers, there would be **no RARSfest**. You don't need to be a member of RARS or even be a ham to help. Shifts are 2 hours, which allows for plenty of time to participate in any of the activities listed above. Check here to see the areas available, and the sign-up can be found here.

[RARSfest - The NC Capital Area Hamfest](#)

In addition to helping the club, there are some perks for volunteers.

If you sign up IN ADVANCE for even one shift, you will receive one "Complimentary Admission" (not good for prize drawings!); you still need to purchase a ticket for those!

You receive a 2025 commemorative volunteer Tee shirt

You are entered into the "Volunteers Only" drawing for a Yaesu FT-70D HT, a \$169 value.

You are eligible to utilize the RARS Consignment Table, where RARS will sell your gear for you so you don't have to purchase or man a Flea Market table!

RARSfest FCC testing

To register for HAM license testing at RARSfest please go to this website and register.

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/6764303f8ae69a2a77ba033c/1>

73

Richard Hall
KR4LH
RARS VE Coordinator

<https://www.rars.org>

February 11, 2025 RARS meeting

President Fin Gold NC4FG called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He reminded Zoom participants of a few notes about using Zoom. See the minutes for all the details during the meeting on [page 24](#).



Visitors holding up their hands



Fin Gold, NC4FG,
RARS President &
Julie Royster, KT4JR,
RARS Secretary



Visitor Suzanne Martin
(unlicensed)
Says she is the Greenest
person in the room and
is very willing to learn



New member
Dan Reed, KK7EUI
Is now Retired and has
become a POTA hunter
among other interests

February 11, 2025 RARS meeting, continued



John Honeycutt, N8ZU
Talking about the RARS
dinner. Third Tuesday of
each month.



Door prize winners. Left to right
Jim Barron, N4CVT
Dennis Mason, WZ0Q
Barry Wheeler, K9IUT



Marty Young, W4MY,
talking about the
NC QSO Party

February 11, 2025 RARS meeting, continued



Marty Young, W4MY, & Charles Swindell, WB4DCM talking about NC QSO party

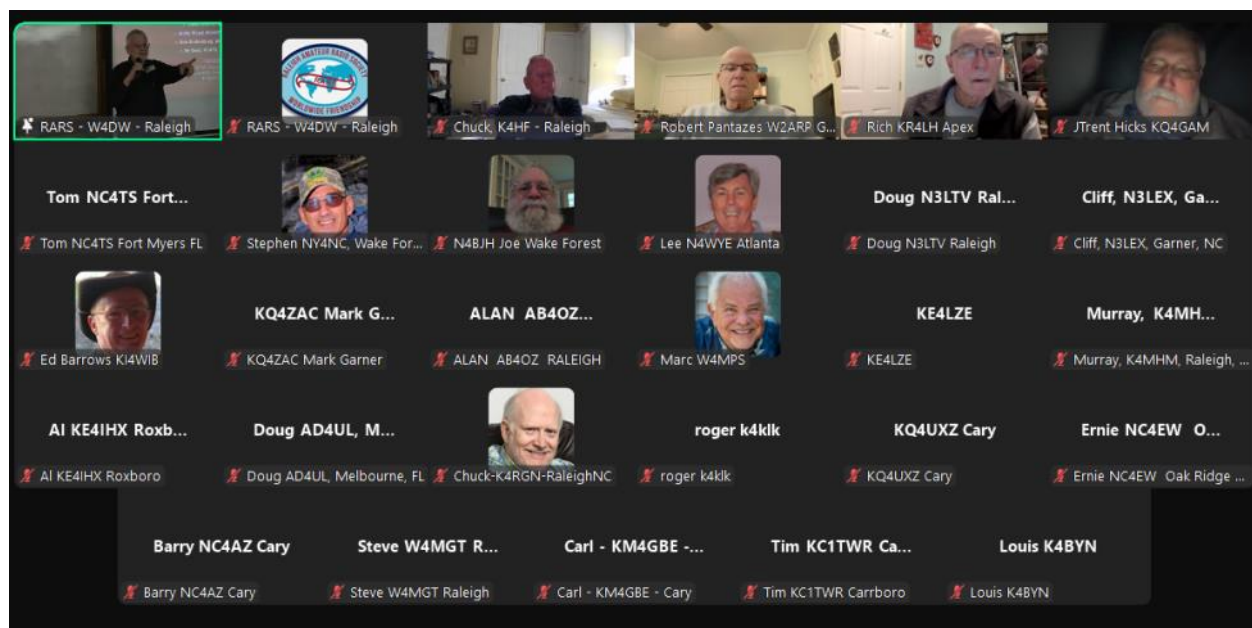


W4DW, the 2025 RARS club station will operate from the home of Fin Gold just north of Raleigh,

February 11, 2025 RARS meeting, continued

Full Name	Call Sign	RARS Member	Full Name	Call Sign	RARS Member
Barry Wheeler	K9IUT	Yes	Josh Kurland	NOCALL	No
Bob Starkenburg	W4TTX	Yes	Julie Royster	KT4JR	Yes
Caleigh Tyler	NOCALL	No	Justin Pinnix	AJ4MJ	Yes
Charles Swindedll	WB4DCM	Yes	Kenneth Latchum	AD4GX	Yes
Chuck Till	K4RGN	Yes	Lawrence Riley	KR4BGL	No
Dale Jones	WA4JCK	Yes	Marty Young	W4MY	Yes
Dan Reed	KK7EUJ	Yes	Nancy Torborg	KB2TNR	Yes
David Cannon	KE7UJX	Yes	Paul K Shaun	NOCALL	No
Dennis Mason	WZ0Q	Yes	Raymond Kalbfeld	K4JKA	Yes
Dennis Oestreich	KO4IBL	Yes	Richard Kroeger	N1FUA	Yes
Devin Hedge	KN4FVH	Yes	Suzanne Martin	NOCALL	No
Fin Gold	NC4FG	Yes	Tadd Torborg	KA2DEW	Yes
Jim Barron	N4CVT	Yes	Thomas Swanson	N4KYW	Yes
John Hollowell	K4JAH	Yes	Tom Lewis	N4TL	Yes
John Honeycutt	N8ZU	Yes	Tony O'Connor	K1OC	Yes
John Mehalek	KQ4ZNR	No	Wilbur Goss	WD4RDT	Yes

The 32 in-person attendance shown above.



Screen capture showing 26 on Zoom

58 total

Monthly In-Person RARS Gathering, February 25

Ridge Road Baptist Church, at [2011 Ridge Road, Raleigh](#)

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, but we start setting up at 6:00 pm, and you are welcome to bring your own ham radio equipment and projects to demonstrate, show off, or just work on with other like-minded hams -- we have plenty of tables. You might also find sources of coax, connectors, zip cord, Powerpoles®, and whatnot.

The RARS VE Team conducts exams on the **fourth Tuesday of even-numbered months** (February, April, June, August, October, and December) prior to the [RARS Gathering](#) at the Ridge Road Baptist Church, 2011 Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27607. You do **not** need to be a RARS member to test with us.



Nine folks tested and everyone passed! Some got a little bit extra, aka General Class license. Thanks to Richard Hall, KR4LH, for the picture.

Monthly In-Person RARS Gathering, February 25, continued

Full Name	Call Sign	RARS Member	Full Name	Call Sign	RARS Member
Austin Hyder	K4HYD	Yes	Michael Johnson	KZ4LY	Yes
Bill Whitson	KZ4LW	Yes	Michael Kerley	KO4PAS	Yes
Brad Bazemore	KK4PWJ	Yes	Nancy Torborg	KB2TNR	Yes
Charles Swindle	WB4DCM	Yes	Nick Baker	NOCALL	No
Daniel L'Hommedieu	KD4UNX	Yes	Richard Hall	KR4LH	Yes
David Cannon	KE7UJX	Yes	Richard Kroeger	N1FUA	Yes
Dennis Keith	NC4DK	Yes	Richard Labarberakk	K1RSL	No
Dennis Mason	WZ0Q	Yes	Rob Bowser	KO4HUI	Yes
Fin Gold	NC4FG	Yes	Ryan Reed	N7RYN	Yes
Greg Seamster	KE4PAX	Yes	Sam Harris	KQ4AQJ	Yes
Jeremy Lindsley	K2HJX	Yes	Stephen Haffly	NY4NC	Yes
Joe Haggerty	N4BJH	Yes	Suzanne Martin	NOCALL	No
John Bowser	NOCALL	No	Tadd Torborg	KA2DEW	Yes
John Hollowell	K4IAH	Yes	Thomas Beckett	NOCALL	No
John Honeycutt	N8ZU	Yes	Tom Lewis	N4TL	Yes
Kenneth Latchum	AD4GX	Yes	Tony O'Connor	K1OC	Yes
Kimberly Johnson	NOCALL	Yes			

33 People, RARS Gathering Attendance February 2025

Future RARS General Meeting presentations

April 8: “Advanced Techniques for Contesting”, by Nate, N4YDU

RARS Member Birthdays

Pete	NL7XM	3/
Shaun	N9LMS	3/1
Scott	KQ4KVVW	3/1
Carl	KJ4WD	3/1
Marty	W4MY	3/2
Barbara	KK4TLY	3/2
Patrick	K4EEVB	3/3
Jennifer	Roberts	3/3
Walt	K4ZVK	3/5
Karl	W4CHX	3/6
Paul	W6COX	3/7
Don	KR4ANY	3/7
James	AJ4M	3/8
Rich	KR4AS	3/8
Bob	WA4ZZN	3/12
Jeremy	KQ4RBH	3/13
Ed	WE3ED	3/13
Pam	KK4IPN	3/13
Tom	K4ETH	3/14
Walter	N4SW	3/14
Ernie	N4AEW	3/14
Chris	KQ4TBN	3/15
Jim	KE4ROH	3/16
Paul	KO4PZA	3/17
Roger	K4KLK	3/17
Larry	K4LXV	3/17
Callen	KQ4QWY	3/17
Ernie	NC4EW	3/19
Kelly	KE4MAC	3/20
Murray	K4MHM	3/20
Chuk	KB4MDZ	3/21
John	W2KI	3/22
Bill	AF4JG	3/22
Greg	KE4PAX	3/23

RARS Member Birthdays

Edward	WQ2X	3/25
Alex	KD9EEU	3/25
David	KI4PUT	3/25
Mel	KJ4MDC	3/25
John	N8NMG	3/27
George	N2VEH	3/27
John	AF4ZE	3/30

RARS New Members

Andy Provost, Jr	KM4NRY
Jason Sullivan	Not Licensed
Deb Garland	KR4BTK
Randy Chellis	Not Licensed
Rita Holmgren	KO4GHW
Don Davis	KR4ANY
Brad Bazemore	KK4PWJ
Josh Sorah	KK4XX
Josh Kurland	KR4BTW
Corey Morris	KR4BTX

February 2025

RARS Net Report

28 2m nets: 405 checkins, 751 minutes

4 6m nets: 38 checkins, 60 minutes

Julie Royster, KT4JR, RARS net manager

AB4OZ hamfest, March 1

The mini hamfest was held at 1001 Mulford Ct in Knighdale. The next one, May 17th, will be at the Ridge Road Baptist Church, 2011 Ridge Road. The same place we have our monthly meetings. See the AB4OZ QRZ entry for the latest information.



Ham Public Service North Carolina

The public service event season is kicking off on February 22, 2025 with the Wilmington Marathon followed by Odyssey of the Mind on March 1, 2025. Volunteers can sign up for these events now at www.hpsnc.org/events. Registration will open for other events in the coming weeks.

New to public service events? Come to the next RARS gathering meeting on February 25th, 2025. Jeremy Lindsley, K2HJX, RARS Public Service Coordinator, will be there with go-boxes to show and will tell you all about the benefits of getting involved with public service events.

73 Jeremy Lindsley, K2HJX

RARSfest Volunteer Consignment table

One of the benefits of being a RARSfest Volunteer is the ability to have the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society try to sell a reasonable number of items for you at the Volunteer Consignment Table.

Full information is on the [RARS website](http://www.rars.org).

Fill out a [sales request form](#) on the website for each item to be sold. On Friday the day before the RARSfest. I will print labels for each item that have been registered on the website. The labels are the removable and don't leave glue behind. When you bring an item to the table on Friday, pick up your labels and put them on your items. At the end of the RARSfest come by and pick up your money for the sold items and the items that did not sell.

If you are not a member of RARS and are volunteering at the RARSfest. Contact Tom [N4TL](#) about using the consignment table.

73 Tom N4TL

CC-AWA March Meet in Charlotte NC

March 20-21-22 at the Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel, 3315 Scott Futrell Drive, Charlotte, NC 28208.

Bring a friend or two and a carload of radio goodies for the Fleamarket and Auction! and your best radio to display in the Contest!!!! Here a link to the meet brochure (pdf).

<https://cc-awa.club/images/2025.pdf>

Pre-register and save: Sheraton Hotel Room Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-325-3535. Be sure to mention you will be attending the Carolina Chapter AWA March Meet 2025 at group rate of \$131.00 USD per night. They will want to send you a text message to do the reservation. I found it easier to say NO to the text. I had to say NO three times. After that a person came on and I was able to make the reservation.

Please Note - the last day to book at this special rate is Wednesday, February 26, 2025 (afterwards rate will be \$199) so please your rooms locked in early!

We are looking forward to seeing you at the meet!!!!

Questions? Brian Harrison briankn4r@gmail.com or 704 657-8910 cell or text anytime



RARS Classifieds

Copied from <https://www.rars.org/classifieds.php>

The items below were listed within the last 30 days on the RARS website.
Check the RARS Classified List on the RARS website regularly for new items.

ICOM IC-735 with PS

Posted March 4th, 2025 by: [N4TL](#)

Contact: n4tl2@yahoo.com

ICOM IC-735 transceiver with box, manual, microphone, power cord.

ICOM PS-55 power supply with box. Both for \$300

Very good condition.

73 Tom N4TL

Q900 V4.0 100KHz-2GHz SDR Radio Bluetooth All Mode SDR Transceiver

Posted March 2nd, 2025 by: [KM4GBF](#)

Contact: km4gbf@domain333.com

Great Condition - I'll sell it here or I will be at RarsFest on April 5.

I got this new last year and haven't spent much time with it - my loss is your gain!

\$350.

Contact by e-mail preferred.

The description is quite long, google for more details/videos.

Q900 is an ultra portable full frequency full mode SDR radio. Its receiving frequency is 100KHz-2GHz, and the amateur transmitting band covers 160m~70cm. Operating modes include FT8, USB, LSB, CW, AM, FM, RTTY, DMR and WFM. It boasts all the advanced functions and features of all stations. Q900 supports three power supply modes: built-in battery, USB port charging and DC port power supply. The power supply voltage range is 5VDC~32VDC

Includes:

- 1 x Q900 Main Unit
- 1 x USB Cable
- 1 x USB thumb drive
- 1 x Power Cable
- 1 x Handheld Mic
- 1 x Plastic Carry Case

RARS Classifieds continued

AlexLoop Walkham Magnetic Loop Antenna

Posted March 2nd, 2025 by: [KM4GBF](#)

Contact: km4gbf@domain333.com

Like new condition - I'll sell it here or I will be at RarsFest on April 5.

\$250.

Contact by e-mail preferred.

The AlexLoop Walkham Antennas is lightweight, can be quickly assembled and are easily tuned to any frequency between 6.95 and 30 MHz for QRP operations.

A unique, light-weight (2 lbs. assembled weight) and low profile design for antenna restricted hams and short wave listeners

Stealth use supported on windows, balconies or even indoors, then remove when ops are finished

Perfect companion to the QRP rig for the traveling ham; max. 20 watts PEP SSB, 10 watts FM/AM

Items Included:

AlexLoop Walkham Premier Loop parts

Manual tuning box built into the base of the antenna

8.5 ft. coaxial cable included, with BNC connector

Soft Carry Bag, total antenna pack weight including bag: 3.3 lbs., Carry Bag size (WHD): 16.1 x 10.6 x 3.5 in.

Eton Elite Executive AM/FM/Aircraft Band/SSB/Shortwave Radio

Posted February 28th, 2025 by: [KO4NWW](#)

Contact: jhendrix95@gmail.com

Like new. Receives AM, FM, Longwave, and Shortwave (SW) frequencies with digital manual, automatic, or keypad tuning. PLL synthesized digital dual conversion for tuning accuracy, with synchronous tuning circuit to reduce distortion and fading for crystal-clear audio. Includes Single Sideband (SSB) for access to amateur radio, maritime, aeronautical, and military signals. 700 programmable stations, selectable bandwidth filters, and a digital clock with an alarm and sleep timer. Comes with a vegan leather case for travel and protection. Powered by AC adapter or AA alkaline batteries for on-the-go convenience.

Original 2021 cost \$194. Current Amazon cost \$150. Asking \$75.00

RARS Classifieds continued

Tecsun H-501x radio

Posted February 28th, 2025 by: [KO4NWW](#)

Contact: jhendrix95@gmail.com

H501x PLL DSP TRIPLE CONVERSION SSB RADIO RECEIVER & AUDIO PLAYER. FM, Longwave (LW), Medium Wave (MW) and Shortwave (SW) frequency bands and is Single Sideband (SSB) capable.

- MicroSD audio playback: Supports FLAC/WAV/APE/WMA/MP3
- Dedicated Fast / Slow and Fine tuning control
- Synchronous detection
- 3150 station memories, stored in 25 memory pages (P0-24)
- SSB function with USB / LSB

New cost \$325.00 Asking \$150.00

Tecsun H-501x radio

Posted February 28th, 2025 by: [KO4NWW](#)

Contact: jhendrix95@gmail.com

H501x PLL DSP TRIPLE CONVERSION SSB RADIO RECEIVER & AUDIO PLAYER. FM, Longwave (LW), Medium Wave (MW) and Shortwave (SW) frequency bands and is Single Sideband (SSB) capable.

- MicroSD audio playback: Supports FLAC/WAV/APE/WMA/MP3
- Dedicated Fast / Slow and Fine tuning control
- Synchronous detection
- 3150 station memories, stored in 25 memory pages (P0-24)
- SSB function with USB / LSB

New cost \$325.00 Asking \$150.00

NEW UNUSED Anytone AT-878UV II Plus Handheld Transceiver 144/430MHz Digital & Analog

Posted February 28th, 2025 by: [KO4NWW](#)

Contact: jhendrix95@gmail.com

For Sale. Never used. Part No. 6947475212320 Updated version of the popular AnyTone AT-D878UV Plus. With Analog APRS RX and 500.000 digital contacts. 136-174MHz, 400-480MHz, Bluetooth, APRS & GPS, original packaging includes user manual, PTT BT Switch, PC cable, battery, charging cradle, antenna and belt clip. New cost is \$334.99 - Asking \$225.00

RARS Classifieds continued

6 Meter Transceiver & Amplifier

Posted February 26th, 2025 by: W4WHW

Contact: [W4WHW](mailto:W4WHW@bweinel@hotmail.com)
bweinel@hotmail.com

I have the following 6 meter equipment for sale:

Yaesu FT-625RD 6m Transceiver w/Manuals & hand mic \$275

Teletec L-180 100w 6m Linear Amplifier w/receive pre-amp \$125

Will sell both as a package for \$350.

Both units are in good operating condition with no issues.

73 Bill W4WHW

Misc Ham Radio Gear

Posted February 3rd, 2025 by: K4HF

Contact: k4hf953@yahoo.com

1. Tentec 937 13.8V 7-11A Switching Power Supply, tested - \$25
2. MFJ 564 Chrome Iambic Paddle Key - \$45

Contact me by e mail, preferred, or (919) 630-9358 Thanks, Chuck

Two Hallicrafters receivers for sale

Posted March 5th, 2025 by: N4TL

Contact: n4tl2@yahoo.com

Hallicrafters SX-101, working all new capacitors. \$100.

Hallicrafters SX-62A, working all new capacitors. \$100

Hallicrafters R46 Speaker, working \$50

73 Tom N4TL

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

February 4, 2025

1) Call to Order – Fin Gold NC4FG

President Gold called the meeting to order at 7 pm. There were no visitors. Board members present were: Fin Gold NC4FG, Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ, Julie Royster KT4JR, Tony O'Connor K1OC, Tom Lewis N4TL, Chuck Till K4RGN, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Denny Oestreich KO4IBL, Tadd Torborg KA2DEW, Nancy Torborg KB2TNR, Brantley West K4CBW, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, John Honeycutt N8ZU, Ken Latchum AD4GX, Richard Hall KR4LH, Richard Kroeger N1FUA.

2) Quorum Call –Julie Royster, KT4JR

President Gold asked for a quorum call, and Julie Royster confirmed that a quorum was achieved.

3) Approval of Minutes from the January 2025 Board Meeting

President Gold asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the board meeting and the club meeting from January. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

4) Old Business

a) Awards committee update - Chuck Till, K4RGN

The awards committee proposes awards to the following members for their service to RARS: Nancy Torborg KB2TNR for chairing RARSfest, David Burt W4OFO for chairing 2024 Field Day, Tadd Torborg KA2DEW for organizing the monthly Gatherings and New Ham meetings, Doug Wall N3LTV for his public service during Hurricane Helene, Denny Oestreich KO4IBL for organizing licensing classes, Virginia Enzor NC4VA for her work with AUXCOMM and Skywarn, and Brantley West for organizing portable operating events and POTA activations.

The committee recommends bestowing a special life membership to Tom Lewis N4TL in recognition of his many years of service to the club in numerous capacities. This award will go to a vote of the membership next week.

5) Signup Genius subscription upgrade complete – Fin Gold, NC4FG

RARS is using this subscription for the NCQP Club Station, RARSfest, and then Field Day. The upgrade is complete and paid for.

6) New Business – Fin Gold, NC4FG

a) Spectrum Analyzers update

Fin Gold is doing final testing of the analyzers and took one to the Gathering. At least four will be ready soon, including video of the testing. Fin proposes to make them available at \$700, with a discount to \$500 for club members. Fin recommends keeping one as a club loaner. Alan recommends keeping two units for parts.

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- b) Inventory update
Fin Gold listed what equipment we have. The cost of our storage unit is \$169/month.
- c) Repeaters Update
We received some old repeaters from Danny Hampton estate. Now we have built a working multi-mode digital repeater, hopefully to go up onto the tower.
- d) RARS Store update
Fin showed the merchandise that is available. We would get less than \$2 per item. We may contact Nancy's polo shirt company.

6) Officers' Reports

- a) Vice-President's Report – Chuck Till K4RGN
Speakers for February through April are arranged, so Chuck is now recruiting for later months.
- b) Treasurer's Report – Greg Seamster KE4PAX
There are currently 519 members. RARSfest sales proceeds are beginning to arrive.
- c) Secretary's Report – Julie Royster KT4JR
Minutes are up to date.

7) Committee Reports:

- a) Education Director Denny Oestreich, KO4IBL
Technician classes are underway. 29 people inquired, 18 signed up, but there were lots of drop-outs on the 3rd class. Some will probably test at the February 25 Gathering.
- b) Field Day Chair Marty Young, W4MY
Planning is ongoing.
- c) Club License Trustees Tom Lewis, N4TL
W4DW license information has been updated at the FCC.
- d) Exciter Editor Tom Lewis, N4TL
Tom is working on the current issue.
- e) RARSfest Chair Nancy Torborg, KB2TNR
Nancy praised Tom Lewis for the Exciter coverage. Tickets are now on sale, with 130 already sold. 87 tables have been sold. We are emailing every club in Roanoke division. She praised Tony for quick website updates, and Jeremy for answering questions. Nancy will have tickets for sale at this month's meetings. IEEE is coming. The New Bern club wants to bring their emergency preparedness vehicle. Signup Genius is working well for volunteer signup.

RARS Board of Directors Meeting minutes continued

- f) Food Service Chair Richard Kroeger, N1FUA
Food is being provided and is getting eaten.
- g) Net Manager Julie Royster, KT4JR
Nets are ongoing.
- h) ARRL Liaison Chuck Littlewood, K4HF
nothing to report
- i) NC QSO Party Chair Marty Young, W4MY
Marty will present at the meeting next week.
- j) RARS VE Coordinator Richard Hall, KR4LH
working on enhancements to process for RARSfest testing to handle the high volume of applicants.
- k) RARS Webmaster Tony O'Connor, K1OC
Everything is OK. There is a new page on the website to encourage and help inactive hams get back on the air.
- l) Youth Chairman Brantley West, K4CBW
Brantley presented to Boy Scouts recently. He offered to take them on an outing soon. We need to complete the postcard sending piece of the ARRL grant.
- m) At Large Director Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ
nothing new to report
- n) At Large Director Tadd Torborg, KA2DEW
There will be a new ham meeting before the club meeting next week. Marty and Tadd will talk about what contesting is, doing runs and pouncing, etc. They may try to do a simulated contest. At the next Gathering Tadd needs someone to operate a GOTA station. Fin could bring the 2 club radios to the Gathering if it would be helpful. We are planning a new ham meeting about antennas prior to Field Day.
- o) At Large Director Ken Latchum, AD4GX
nothing to report

8) Other reports, questions, or comments from Board Members

Greg Seamster noted that the annual SERA fee has been paid, but confirmation and login access has not been received. Chuck Till replied that he was following up with SERA for access as the W4RNC Trustee. He also commented that SERA frequency coordination was needed for the new DMR repeater.

Greg Seamster stated that door prizes for meetings are not a line item in the budget, so perhaps these could be included in the line item for meetings.

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Chuck Till is seeking prize ideas. Any undistributed prizes purchased for RARSfest might be saved as club meeting door prizes.

Fin Gold's article in the Exciter points out that there are lots of events coming up so members can feel excited about participating.

Nancy Torborg needs a person to volunteer for admissions at RARSfest.

9) Adjournment

Chuck Till moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Royster KT4JR, RARS secretary



Thanks to Bill Marx, W2CQ for sending this.

RARS General Membership Meeting minutes

February 11, 2025, 7:30 PM

- 1) President Fin Gold NC4FG called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He reminded Zoom participants of a few notes about using Zoom. He thanked attendees for coming out tonight.
- 2) President Gold asked if any new members, visitors, or newly upgraded licensees were present.
New members present were:
 Dan Reed, KK7EUI
Visitors present were:
 Suzanne Martin (unlicensed)
 Nick Baker (unlicensed)
 Josh Kurland (unlicensed)
 John Mehalek, KQ4ZNR
 Lawrence Riley, KR4BGL
 Paul K. Shaun (unlicensed)
 Caleigh Taylor (Unlicensed)
- 3) President Gold asked Secretary Julie Royster KT4JR for a Quorum Call. Counting in-person plus Zoom attendees, there was a quorum present. President Gold asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.
- 4) Vice President's Report or announcements – Chuck Till, K4RGN
Chuck stated that the March meeting program will concern RARS*fest*, and awards will be presented to recognize members who have contributed significantly to our club.
- 5) Secretary's Report or announcements – Julie Royster, KT4JR
The minutes are up to date.
- 6) Treasurer's Report -- Greg Seamster KE4PAX
Fin Gold stated that as of last week RARS currently had about 520 members.
- 7) Specific Announcements or Reports from Directors
 - a) Awards committee update from Chuck Till, K4RGN
The awards committee has recommended that a special Life Membership be awarded to Tom Lewis, N4TL, for his many years of service to RARS in many different roles. This requires a vote at a membership meeting. He asked for a motion that Life Membership be conferred on Tom Lewis. The motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
 - b) Announcements from Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ
The new location for the free AB4OZ hamfest on March 1 will be The Lawson Apartments in

RARS General Membership Meeting minutes continued

Knightdale, 1001 Mulford Court. Everyone is invited to the ham radio luncheons every Thursday at the New York Diner in Knightdale. RARSfest will be on April 5.

- c) President Gold stated that the next Board Meeting will be held at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 via Zoom, and visitors may get the link from Fin.
- d) Tom Lewis, N4TL, reminded attendees that you do not have to be a RARS member to read our newsletter, The Exciter. You can click on a link on the RARS.org website to read the current issue.
- e) John Honeycutt, N8ZU, reminded attendees that everyone is welcome to come to the RARS dinner on the third Tuesday of every month at the IHOP at the corner of Six Forks Road and Sawmill Road.
- f) President Gold reiterated that the RARS.org website includes reminders of all upcoming events.
- g) Public Service director Jeremy Lindsley K2HJX reminded attendees that the public service season will start soon, and everyone is encouraged to volunteer to assist with special events. You can see the event schedule on the website HPSNC.org and sign up to help at any event for which you are available. Anyone with a technician license is qualified to help.

8) Door Prize Drawing – Chuck Till K4RGN

Tickets were drawn for 3 door prizes, and the winners were:

Dennis Mason, WZ0Q

Barry Wheeler, K9IUT

Jim Barron, N4CVT

9) Program:

Chuck Till, K4RGN, introduced tonight's speaker, Marty Young, W4MY.

Marty presented a talk about the annual North Carolina QSO Party, which will occur on February 23, 2025. All licensed stations are encouraged to participate in this event, and unlicensed visitors may learn a lot about amateur radio by observing at the RARS club station. The 2025 RARS club station will operate from the home of Fin Gold just north of Raleigh, and people can sign up to operate or observe online. At the conclusion of the program Marty and Fin answered questions about NC QSO Party operating.

10) Adjournment: President Gold asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Chuck Till, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Royster, KT4JR, RARS Secretary

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RARS Portable Operating Group February Outing at Eno River State Park

The RARS Portable Operating Group met on February 22 at Eno River State Park to enjoy the weather and participate in the Parks on the Air program. The weather was excellent for February. You'd have never known the park had been closed for snow the day before. We had four stations on the air simultaneously. We had some inter-station interference, but all attendees were able to complete their activations successfully.

Jeff Highsmith WJ3FF is pictured below operating QRP CW using his new QMX+ transceiver and quarter wave vertical antenna.

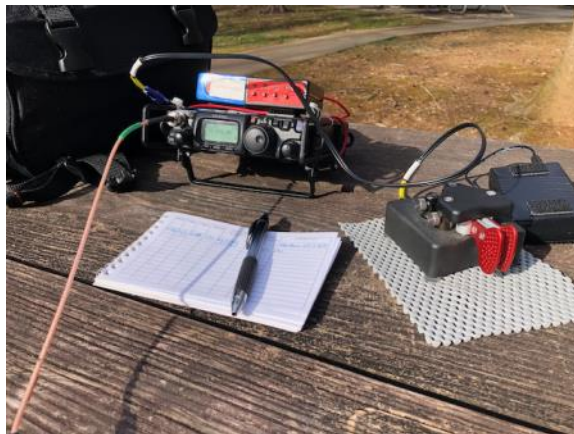
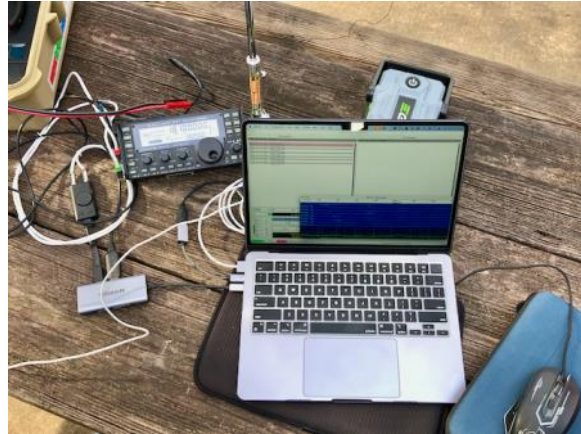


John Hollowell K4JAH and Lawrence Riley KR4BGL are pictured below operating a 40m SSB station using an FTDX10 and linked dipole.



RARS Portable Operating Group February Outing at Eno River State Park

Gordon Fedoriw, KM4GBF, and Mike Elks, KN4GUN, shown below, operated 20m digital using a KX3 to a sloping end-fed wire.



Brantley West K4CBW started on 10m CW and finished on 20m where the going was much easier.

Thanks to Brantley West, K4CBW, for sending this to the Exciter.

RARS Portable Operating Group March

Hi all,

The next outing for the RARS Portable Operating Group will be on Sunday, March 23 from 1-3pm at the Umstead State Park Crabtree Shelter #2 at the US-70/Glenwood entrance. Jeremy Lindsley K2HJX, the RARS Public Service Director and Ham Public Service NC (HPSNC) co-administrator, will lead us through a mock public service event.

If you are interested in learning about how public service fits with amateur radio, which shares some similarities with emergency communications, come join us. Jeremy will explain how public service events work, how to prepare with the correct equipment, and standard operating practices during a public service event. Jeremy will also bring his communications trailer and demonstrate his portable VHF station as he leads us as the net control station in a directed net. Charge your HT batteries and bring your walking shoes!

Umstead State Park is also a POTA site. The club has reserved the shelter for the day, so feel free to bring an HF station and activate the park while you're there.

As always, no license or club affiliation required, only a passing interest in radio, communications, or electronics. Kids and family are welcome to join. I hope to see you there!

-bw/K4CBW

Brantley West

cbwest@gmail.com

Contesting – QRP CW & Portable: The ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Bob K4RLC



I did the ARRL 10 Meter contest from Jordan Lake State Recreation Area US-3844, near Apex, North Carolina. This contest is not as competitive as some of the classics like CQ WW CW or ARRL DX CW contest, so it can afford a person with a smaller station and/or less contesting experience a good time. As the contest is held the second week in December, it basically is a daytime only contest since propagation is virtually nonexistent after dark on 10 Meters. For this contest weekend, I had multiple competing personal and family activities. I chose Jordan Lake State Recreational Area, about 30 miles from our house, so I could return to Raleigh Saturday night, then drive back Sunday. I took our Winnebago Solis, the smallest Winnebago, as Alanna and I gave up tent camping a few years ago. The Solis is a wonderful camper van on a Dodge ProMaster chassis that sleeps three, has a propane powered furnace and two burner stove, and a refrigerator that can be powered either by propane or by the 140 W solar panels on top of the van, loading up two 100 amp hour AGM batteries. You can boondock for days, or enjoy the luxury of “shore power.”

Contesting – QRP CW & Portable: The ARRL 10 Meter Contest , continued



K4RLC EmComm van named Caledonia (after Dad's 1937 Chevy convertible)

I went out to Jordan Lake late Friday afternoon and set up an inverted V which I hoped would provide a bit of gain. I had big plans for building gain antennas for the contest (such as a Double Half Square Curtain array or vertical Diamond), but for various reasons, this unfortunately didn't happen. I also wanted to operate Portable just as I do my Parks-On-the-Air and Summits-On-the-Air activities, and not from the home QTH. The rig was the Elecraft KX2, an outstanding rig that you can pound away on for a contest, just as we do with the Elecraft K3 on Field Day. It was already dark when the contest started Friday night. While eating the stereotypical solo male dinner of Dinty Moore Beef Stew right out of the cooking pot (Alanna didn't accompany me for this outing), I heard only two stations - big gun stations in my own county. However, the band came alive after sunrise Saturday, with the Western and Northwestern Europeans booming in. After trying the non-resonant inverted V, it soon became apparent I would need to use my fallback antenna: a 10 foot telescoping whip, no coil, on a tripod, resting on a 3' X 7' piece of aluminum screen wire from Lowe's. Quickly, I was working such diverse stations as Finland, Germany, Scotland, and Croatia. Despite being less intense than some contests, most stations were running between 30 and 34 words a minute. For the DX exchange, after a signal report, they give the serial number of your contact. This required some pretty intense concentration and listening for my old brain, particularly as I

Contesting – QRP CW & Portable: The ARRL 10 Meter Contest , continued

operated in the “Unassisted” category. That is, operating without use of a computer or any other spotting and/or decoding devices. Instead, all my decoding occurred strictly between the ears – the original decoder - helped by lots of strong coffee from a Stanley French Press Coffee Maker our daughter Lauren KA4LHC gave me. Logging was with an old legal pad and Bic pen.



Cup of coffee; CW Key; & KX2 – All I Ever Need

I was amazed at how well I did with 5 Watts CW only and the KX2. In the early stages of contests, contesters are avid to make as many easy contacts as possible, and typically will give up on a harder to copy low power station after one or two tries and move on. On my end, I had to try multiple times for a station to copy my call, which really slowed down my QSO rate. GM5X in Scotland was kind and patient enough to take five tries to get my call and exchange. Enjoying the beautiful park sight and making good contacts, the morning quickly morphed into afternoon, at which point the first of my “other obligations” required me to stop and drive back to town.

Alanna and I had been invited to a Christmas party at the North Carolina Governor's Mansion by outgoing Governor Roy Cooper, a wonderful and kind leader. Alanna is very tolerant of my radio adventures, but she would kill me if I missed this one. Nor would she like it if I showed up unshowered in my radio activation attire :) Notably, Gov. Cooper is a fan of amateur radio, especially appreciating its vital role in past weather emergencies and particularly recent disaster operations after the tragic results of Hurricane Helene this fall in Western North Carolina.

Contesting – QRP CW & Portable: The ARRL 10 Meter Contest , continued



Alanna K4AAC, Governor Cooper (No Call yet) & Bob K4RLC

As access to the park was closed for the night, Alanna and I went back home still enjoying the beauty of the old Victorian governor's mansion and it's five Christmas trees, as well as being treated to North Carolina delicacies such as Smoked Mountain trout. The next morning, I had volunteered to be a fill-in teacher for our adult Sunday school class, having forgotten about the contest way back. It worked well. The first scripture I taught was from the Prophet Isaiah on Patience. God knows it takes a lot of patience to be a QRP CW operator :-). The second scripture was from our old friend the Apostle Paul, on the virtue of Joy – moving beyond temporal happiness to appreciation and praise for the Joy of Life infused by Our Creator. What brings you Joy and gives your life meaning? For Alanna and I, Family is always first. But ham radio brings me incredible joy, both from the technical aspect of operating radios and designing antennas, as well as the incredible friends I've met through radio, even though I've never talked with some face-to-face. After teaching Sunday school and attending a Spirit filled Christmas Cantata service, I rushed home to change back into radio operations attire and headed back to Jordan Lake to set up the vertical again and get back to contesting.

Contesting – QRP CW & Portable: The ARRL 10 Meter Contest , continued



17 ft Vertical Antenna on screen wire counterpoise

Sunday afternoons in contests are somewhat more relaxed. Most of the Big Guns have worked thousands of stations by then and many times will take time to listen for and work a QRP (weaker signal) operator. There also are the more casual contesters then available for contacts. So, in some ways it was more enjoyable operating Sunday afternoon.

The weird thing is that in examining the propagation pattern, Saturday morning I was basically working Western and Northwestern Europe. Sunday afternoon, it was almost all Western United States and West and Northwest Canada including the Northwest Territories. I even got two Hawaii contacts, but darn it, none from Alaska.

Contesting – QRP CW & Portable: The ARRL 10 Meter Contest , continued



QSO Map – Not bad for 5 watts & a vertical whip on screen wire from Lowe’s (Tools.Adventureradio.De)

For North America, while the vertical should have been omni-directional, I did not work any stations in Areas 1, 2 or 3, but mostly west of the Mississippi. Must have been a good take off angle for DX.

DX - 15	Region	4	7	0
Aland Is.	R1 R2 R3	AL NC	AZ OR	CO MO
Argentina		FL SC	ID UT	IA ND
Belize	1	GA TN	MT WA	KS NE
British Virgin Is.	CT NH	KY VA	NV WY	MN SD
Costa Rica	MA RI		AK	
Croatia	ME VT	5	8	Canada
Curacao		AR NM	MI WV	NF MB
Czech Republic	2	LA OK	OH	LB SK
Federal Republic of Germany	NY NJ	MS TX		NB AB
Italy	3	6	9	NS BC
Norway	DE MD	CA HI	IL WI	PE NT
Puerto Rico	PA DC		IN	QC YT
Scotland				ON NU
Sweden				
US Virgin Is.				

Table of K4RLC’s Worked Areas from N3FJP Software

Most of the time I was “hunting and pouncing” for stations. I tried running, but only a few stations answered my call. I guess because I was QRP and sending in the lower 20s, the Big Guns didn’t want to answer. I also thought that since I was at a POTA site, I would have worked a lot of POTA stations; not so.

Before packing up Monday morning after the contest ended, I thought I would try 40 M with the invert-

Contesting – QRP CW & Portable: The ARRL 10 Meter Contest , continued

ed V and worked lots of stations with good signal reports. I still can't figure out why the inverted V did not do well for 10 M, but I'll try to figure that out before next December. Or, build and try one of the gain antennas at home well before the next contest.

Overall, it was a very interesting weekend between camping in the Solis; being at the Governor's mansion reception; teaching Sunday school and attending the Christmas Cantata at Church; and operating the contest from Jordan Lake. The weather was chilly but the Truma VarioHeat furnace kept the Solis super toasty, not like my old winter tent camping days in northern Michigan. While I was generally satisfied I could work and copy the stations running in the 30s, I certainly recognized the need for more practice at higher WPM, as the mid to upper 30s is not yet an easy or comfortable speed for me. This can be a New Year's resolution.

Happy New Year to all and wishing you many great activations in 2025!

73 DE K4RLC Bob (Edited by K4AAC Alanna)



Equipment:

Elecraft KX2

Putikeeg CW Paddle (Amazon)

Wolf River Telescoping mast & tripod (no coil)

Screen wire from Lowe's

Stanley Boil & Brew French Press Coffee Maker (REI)



RARSfest April 5, 2025

Latest info —> [RARSfest - The NC Capital Area Hamfest](#)

Experience the Largest All-Indoor Hamfest on the East Coast
and the 2025 ARRL [North Carolina](#) State Convention!
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Also check out
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Grand Prize

[Yaesu FTDX10 HF Radio](#)

First Prize

[Yaesu FTM-500DR FM/C4FM](#)

[Dual Band Mobile](#)

“Early Bird” Prize

[ICOM IC-2730A Dual Band Mobile](#)

Volunteer Prize

[Yaesu FT-70DR Dual Band Handheld Radio](#)

PLUS! Hourly drawings for other fabulous prizes! See the [Door Prizes](#) page for details.
Please note that complimentary tickets are not eligible for prize drawings.

Volunteers are needed, [please sign up here](#).

Complimentary admission and a [special prize drawing](#) for volunteers

You do not need to be a RARS member to volunteer! Or attend the RARSfest.

<https://www.rars.org>